

PATENT
Docket No.: 55197US002**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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GROUP 1600

OFFICIAL

In re Application of: Douglas Quong

Serial No.: 09/425,636

Group Art Unit: 1617

Filed: October 22, 1999

Examiner: Nguyen, H.

CPA Filed: March 6, 2002

For: ACTIVE MATERIAL WITHIN HYDROGEL MICROBEADS**AMENDMENT**Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 10, 2002. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Remarks

Enclosed is a copy of a Preliminary Amendment that was first transmitted to the USPTO by facsimile on March 29, 2002 (confirmations of transmission/receipt also enclosed). Upon receipt of the instant Office Action, it appeared that the Examiner had not considered the Preliminary Amendment, and, in a telephone inquiry, the Examiner confirmed that she had not seen it. The Preliminary Amendment was then re-transmitted to the USPTO on May 23, 2002 (confirmation enclosed). Since no other communications have been received in the interim, Applicant is now re-submitting the Preliminary Amendment (incorporated

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date shown below:

Date:

August 7, 2002

Signed:

Lucy C. Weiss

Lucy C. Weiss, Reg. No. 32,834

by reference herein) in official response to the instant Office Action, as the Preliminary Amendment is believed to fully address the Examiner's concerns.

Concluding Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of Applicant's claims are respectfully solicited. In the event that a phone conference between the Examiner and the Applicant's undersigned attorney would help resolve any remaining issues in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact said attorney at (651) 733-1189.

Respectfully Submitted By:

August 7, 2002
Date

Lucy C. Weiss
Lucy C. Weiss
Registration No. 32,834

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In re Application of: Douglas Quong

Serial No.: 09/425,636

Group Art Unit: 1617

Filed: October 22, 1999

Examiner: Nguyen, H.

CPA Filed: March 6, 2002

For: ACTIVE MATERIAL WITHIN HYDROGEL MICROBEADS**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

FILED DATE(S)	_____
FILED BY	LCW
DOCKETED BY	me

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims

Please amend Claim 1 to read as follows:

1. (twice amended) A method of delivering and releasing active material comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing hydrogel microbeads each comprising a plurality of active material droplets entrained within a hydrophilic matrix that is cured non-chemically at temperatures in the range of about 10°C to about 40°C or that is cured chemically, said microbeads having an average diameter between about 1 µm to about 1000 µm;
 - b) creating a suspension of a plurality of said microbeads;

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date shown below:

Date: March 29, 2002 Signed: Lucy C. Weiss
Lucy C. Weiss, Reg. No. 32,834